THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) The proposal of the Government of Maharashtra for diversion of additional 1500 hectares of forest land in Dhula district for resettlement of Sardar Sarovar Project oustees has been appoved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 22-2-94.

(b) Number of Sardar Sarovar Project affected families from 33 villages of Dhula district of Maharashtra State is about 3065. They have choice to get rehabilitated either in Maharashtra or in Gujarat. Out of this, nearly 2500 project affected families have opted for settlement in Maharashtra. State Government of Maharashtra has a programme to construct 4 gaothans with all civic amenities at Somaval for this purpose. While one gaothan is ready, two more gaothans are scheduled for completion by June, 1994. With release of 1500 hectares of forest area additional space has now become available for construction of more gaothans to the benefit of project affected families.

Ground Water Resources in Desert Areas of Rajasthan

1769. SHRI RAJENDRA PRADAD MODY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in the ground Water resources in desert areas of Rajasthan ;

(b) whether Government have identified several potential aquifers leading to development of plans to construct tube-wells in clusters ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ameliorate the drinking water scarcity in Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scientific exploratory drilling programme, for locating the ground water resources, the Central Ground Water Board have identified potential aquifers in the desert districts of Barmer, Bikaner, Churu, Ganganagar, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Nagaur, Jodhpur, Pali and Sikar of Rajasthan.

(c) The results of scientific exploratory drilling have been intimated to the State Government for development of ground water resources for various purposes including drinking water supply.

Setting up of Upper Yamuna Board

1770. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Delhi has urged the Central Government to set up and Upper Yamuna Board so that equal share of river water is given ;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto ;

(c) whether Government have contemplated serious efforts to get the right share of water to Delhi State ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b) The co-basin States, including Delhi, of Yamuna basin have agreed in principle to set up an Upper Yamuna River Board. A Committee headed by Member (WP), Central Water Commission and Secretaries of co-basin States as members was constituted to formulate draft constitution and function of the Board. The Committee has sumitted its report.

(c) and (d) Allocation of Yamuna waters upto Okhla based on mean annual availability has been discussed and agreed by the co-basin States. However, there has been no agreement on the time frame for its implementation.

Feasibility Reports for Water Transfer Links

1771. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number and details of water transfer links, identified under peninsular component, and the preliminary feasibility reports completed so far by the National Develoment Agency ;